

Message Text

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ACTION AF* 18

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO PU NO

SUBJ: CONTINUING NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HAS INFO*MED ME OF A SENEGALESE PLAN TO HAVE SEVERAL COUNTRIES TRY TO *ERSUADE PORTUGAL TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES. FRYDENLUND SAID HE WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE SENEGALESE APPROACH, WHICH WOULD SEEK A FRENCH-TYPE EVOLUTION TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, AND ASKED FOR MY REACTION. I RESPONDED THAT THE US POSITION ON GUINEA-BISSAU RECOGNITION HAD NOT CHANGED AND WE HAD TO CONSIDER OUR RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL. NEVERTHELESS, I TOLD FRYDENLUND THE SENEGALESE IDEA WAS NEW TO ME AND THAT I WOULD PASS ON HIS REMARKS AND SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING JANUARY 11 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

FRYDENLUND, I ASKED ABOUT THAT MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS THAT JAN PRONK, DUTCH MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AS ISTANCE, RECENTLY VISITED NORWAY TO COORDINATE A SCANDINAVIAN-NETHERLANDS POLICY TO APPLY PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

2. IN RESPONSE FRYDENLUND SAID FIRST THAT SENEGALESE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, OSMANE CAMARA, HAD VISITED HIM ON JANUARY 9 TO ASK FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL'S PLAN THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES TRY TO GET PORTUGAL TO BEGIN GRADUALLY GIVING GREATER INDEPENDENCE TO ITS AFRICAN COLONIES. HE HOPED THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES WOULD JOIN IN THIS EFFORT. THE SENEGALESE APPROACH HAD BEEN VERY MODERATE, AND FRYDENLUND EMPHASIZED THAT CAMARA HAD WANTED THIS DONE IN FRIENDLY MANNER. THE CONCEPT WAS SIMILAR TO THE EVOLUTIONARY PATTERN FOLLOWED BY FRANCE IN AFRICA. THE INTENT WAS NOT TO TRY TO DRIVE PORTUGAL OUT OF AFRICA BUT RATHER TO PUT PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING GREATER FREEDOM FOR PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES AND EVENTUALLY TO SECURING UN MEMBERSHIP FOR GUINEA BISSAU. CAMARA HAD VISITED SWEDEN BEFORE COMING TO NORWAY AND WAS GOING ON TO FINLAND. FRYDENLUND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SWEDEN HAD BEEN NON-COMMITTAL.

3. TURNING TO MY QUESTION REGARDING DUTCH EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A GROUP OF COUNTRIES TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PORTUGUESE, FRYDENLUND SAID MINISTER PRONK HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE DUTCH WOULD PRESENT NORWAY WITH A PLAN FOR JOINT RECOGNITION OF GUINEA BISSAU. HE HAD BEEN NON-COMMITTAL WHEN HE TALKED TO PRONK AND INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER AT THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASBOURG. NORWAY WAS WILLING TO PUT SOME POLITICAL EFFORT INTO THE RECOGNITION OF GUINEA BISSAU, BUT GUINEA BISSAU MUST MEET THE MINIMUM CRITERIA OF A VIABLE NATION.

4. FRYDENLUND MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ALSO TALKED RECENTLY WITH BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS ABOUT PORTUGUESE COLONIES. THE BRAZILIANS WERE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION AND TOLD FRYDENLUND THEY HAD TOLD THE PORTUGUESE THAT THE PORTUGUESE MUST START GIVING GREATER INDEPENDENCE TO THEIR COLONIES
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OR PORTUGAL'S ENTIRE POSITION IN AFRICA WOULD BE LOST.

5. FRYDENLUND SAID HE EXPECTS FURTHER QUESTIONS IN THE STORTING (PARLIAMENT) ABOUT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON GUINEA BISSAU. HE THOUGHT THE SENEGALESE APPROACH WAS REASONABLE AND HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS A FRIENDLY, PEACEFUL INITIATIVE INTENDED TO PUT PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL TO MOVE TOWARD GRANTING GREATER FREEDOM TO ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE

PLANNED, THEREFORE, TO REFER TO THE SENEGALESE INITIATIVE WHEN THE QUESTION CAME UP IN THE STARTING. HE WOULD SAY THAT NORWAY WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE SENEGALESE SUGGESTION AND TOWARDS RECOGNITION OF GUINEA BISSAU, PROVIDING GUINEA BISSAU COULD MEET THE CRITERIA OF A VIABLE NATION. FRYDENLUND ASKED FOR MY REACTIONS. I REVIEWED FOR HIM OUR POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF GUINEA BISSAU AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, BUT TOLD HIM I WOULD SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE SENEGALESE PROPOSAL.

6. COMMENT: NORWEGIAN CONCERN OVER PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM HAS BEEN GAINING MOMENTUM SINCE OSLO HOSTED THE OAU/UN SPONSORED AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN APRIL 1973. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL NORDIC CONSULTATIONS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS, BRAZIL AND SENEGAL, FRYDENLUND TOLD ME HE MET WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER PAGRICIO AT THE DECEMBER NATO MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS WHICH MAY BE THE REASON FRYDENLUND DID NOT CRITICIZE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN POLICIES AT THAT MEETING AS HE HAD EARLIER PLANNED. THE NORWEGIANS REMAIN DETERMINED TO WORK FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES, WITHOUT YET MOVING TO THE SORT OF CONFRONTATION THE DUTCH PROPOSAL WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY. I REALIZE THAT THE SENEGALESE APPROACH MAY ALSO BE A NON-STARTER. GIVEN ITS APPARENTLY MODERATE, EVOLUTIONARY NATURE, HOWEVER, IT COULD PROVE TO BE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE CHANNEL FOR NORWEGIAN MISSIONARY ZEAL AND, FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW, CERTAINLY PREFERABLE TO DIVISIVE CRITICISM WITHIN A NATO FORUM.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE SENEGALESE APPROACH ON GUINEA BISSAU AND GUIDANCE FOR MY NEXT ENCOUNTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT.

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